

ESEA Flexibility

Why?

What Does It Mean for Title I Schools and Districts?

NJAFPA SPRING TRAINING

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Presentation Overview

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- Why waivers?
- What's waived?
- What does this mean for 2012-2013?

Why Waivers?

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- 1965 – Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- 1981 – Educational Consolidation and Improvement Act (Chapter 1)
- 1988 – Reauthorized – focus on accountability
- 1994 – Improving America's School Act
- 2001 – No Child Left Behind
- 2008 – New Rules – CFR 200
- 2010 – Secretary's Blueprint for Reform
- 2011 – ESEA Flexibility Waivers

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Change Needed

- ESEA usually reauthorized every five years
 - ***January 2007:*** President Bush approaches Congress to begin the reauthorization
 - ***August 2007:*** House Committee (Health, Education and Labor) drafts bill that is never formally introduced.

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Intended and Unintended Consequences

- Complies with ESEA's main purpose to enable economically disadvantaged students to be on par with their more affluent peers
- Forces states to set standards for achievement and to develop accountability systems
- Exposes achievement gaps amount various student populations

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Intended and Unintended Consequences

- Some states set low achievement standards
- No recognition of student growth
- Little recognition and reward for effective teachers

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Change Needed

Hinders new educational reforms and innovations

- Teacher and principal evaluation systems
- College and career ready standards and assessments

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Change Needed

Requests from states to differentiate supports to
“schools in need of improvement”

- States developing new accountability systems
- Components of federal SIG program

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Change Needed ***Plan A: Reauthorization***

- ***March 2010:*** President Obama's Blueprint for Reform (basis for ESEA reauthorization)
- ***January 2011:*** President appeals to Congress to reauthorize ESEA prior to 2011-2012 school year
- ***September 2011:*** President moves to Plan B

Why Waivers?

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NCLB: Change Needed

Plan B: ESEA Flexibility Waivers

- ***September 2011***: President allows States to seek voluntary waivers
- A “bridge” from NCLB to relief sought in reauthorization

Why Waivers?

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Flexibility Waivers- 10 Areas

1. District improvement requirements
2. School improvement requirements
3. 100% Proficiency by 2013-2014
4. Rural districts
5. Schoolwide Programs
6. Rewards schools
7. Supports for schools in need of improvement
8. Highly-qualified teacher plans
9. Transferability
10. Use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds

Why Waivers?

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Flexibility Waivers- 4 Principles

- 1. College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students**
 - Adopt college and career ready standards (CCSS)
 - Develop and administer high-quality assessments that measure student growth

Why Waivers?

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Flexibility Waivers- 4 Principles

2. State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support System

- New AMOs (annual, measurable objectives)
- Incentives and rewards
- Identify priority schools (lowest 5% of Title I participating and/or eligible schools)
- Identify focus schools (10% of Title I schools that contribute to the achievement gap)

Why Waivers?

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Flexibility Waivers- 4 Principles

3. Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

- Principal and teacher evaluation systems

4. Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden

Why Waivers?

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Reauthorization

- ***October 2011***: Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions sends reauthorization bill to the Senate floor.
- ***November 13, 2011***: The media quotes Senator Harkins (D-IA) as saying that the reauthorization of ESEA voted out of his committee in October will not be on the Senate floor until sometime in 2012.

What Does this Mean for 2012-2013?

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- Schools no longer required to reach 100% proficiency by 2013-2014.
- Schools no longer identified as schools in need of improvement.

What Does this Mean for 2012-2013?

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- ***Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs):*** The NJDOE will calculate AMOs for schools and districts based on the goal of closing the achievement gap by half within six years.
- The AMOs set in annual equal increments toward a goal of reducing by half the percentage of students in the “all students” group and in each subgroup who are not proficient within six years.

Annual Measurable Objectives

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- The 'all students' group has a proficiency rate of 40%, so there is a 60% point gap between 100% proficiency and the current rate.
(100 – 40 = 60)
- Divide the gap in half to determine the target for the sixth year – a gain of 30 percentage points.
(60 / 2 = 30)
- Divide the 30-percentage point gain into six equal increments to set annual targets.
(30/6 = 5)
- The school in begins with 40% proficiency rate, and obtain proficiency rates of **45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%**, and finally **70%** in each of the following years of the six-year period.

What's Waived?

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- Requirement for the NJDOE's district and school report cards to identify a school in need of improvement and a district in need of improvement.
- Under the waiver, the Report Card will not identify schools as a School in Need of Improvement based solely on narrow AYP achievement targets.

What's Waived?

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- Requirements for schools in need of improvement, corrective action and restructuring
- Requirements for districts in need of improvement or corrective action

What Does This Mean for Districts without Priority and Focus Schools?

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- 20% SES and school choice transportation reserve no longer required.
- 10% reserve (SINI PD) no longer required.
- 10% reserve (DINI PD) no longer required.

What's Waived?

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- Requirement for a school to have a poverty rate of 40% or higher to operate a Title I schoolwide program.
- The waiver allows districts to apply to operate a Title I schoolwide program in a Priority or Focus School with a poverty rate below 40%.

What's Waived?

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- The requirement for districts reporting less than 100% of their teachers as meeting the definition of “Highly Qualified” to develop and implement an improvement plan.
- The waiver provides increased focus on the development of more meaningful evaluation systems for teachers.

What's Waived?

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- The requirement to allocate 1003(a), or Title I School Improvement Funds (SIA) to districts with the lowest achieving schools that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds, and the strongest commitment for working with their schools to improve student achievement.
- Under the waiver, the NJDOE will allocate these funds to districts for use in Priority and Focus Schools to implement interventions.

What's Waived?

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- The requirement that the State to allocate 1003(g), or School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to a school defined as Tier 1.
- Under the waiver, the Department may allocate the funds to any Priority school that elects or is directed by the RAC to implement one of the four SIG models.

What's Waived?

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- The option for the State to reward a Title I school that either 1) significantly closes the achievement gap between its subgroups, or 2) exceeds AYP for two or more consecutive years.
- The waiver requires the state to formally recognize and reward high-performing schools.

Resources

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- **New Jersey's Waiver Application**

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/nclb/waiver/>

- **USDE ESEA Flexibility Web Page**

<http://www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility>

- **President's Blueprint for Reform**

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/publicationtoc.html>

THANK YOU!

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